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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



MARCH 1982

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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BULLETIN STAFF

Editor-in-Chief

Deborah Barchi
Meeting Street School
438-9500

News Editor

Sondra Giles
Providence College Library
865-2242 or 467-7005 (home)

Jobline

Elizabeth Rogers
Providence Public Library
521-7722

Advertising

Chris LaFauci
Health Department Library
277-2506

Calendar

Gaile DeStefano
Barrington Public Library
245-3106

Printing done by East Side Copy, Providence.

Production Editor

Sharon Charette
Wheaton College Library
(617)285-7722 Ext.504

Mailing

Dena Janson
Adams Library, R.I. College
274-4900 Ext.305

Jobline Mailing

Mary Frances Cooper
Providence Public Library
521-7722

Contributing Editor

Carol Hryciw
Adams Library, R.I. College
274-4900 Ext.202

Contributing Editor

Lea M. Bohnert
URI Graduate Library School
792-2878

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

MARCH 1982

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COVER ART: The cover illustration, entitled "Children
Dancing" was done by Ruth Resnick of New Haven,
Connecticut.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



The February 22 issue of Time magazine sports a glowing photo of an expectant mother and catchy title "The New Baby Bloom". Apparently, having babies is becoming very catchy lately, especially among well-educated, career-minded women in their thirties, themselves products of the baby boom of the late forties and fifties. Where there are babies there are families, and where there are families, there are needs for information and recreation. Where there are informational and recreational needs there should be libraries. According to Regina Slezak, guest editor of this month's Bulletin concerning library service to children and families, there are many libraries which have developed excellent programs and services for the families in their communities. Many thanks to Regina and to this issue's contributors for their interesting and "timely" articles.

Recently, Chris LaFauci has notified me that she must step down as Bulletin Advertising Manager because of her increasing responsibilities as newly elected Vice President of RISHL. Because Chris did such a fine and efficient job as advertising manager, her replacement should have little trouble taking over the well-kept records and accounts of our advertisers. The position is not an overly demanding one in terms of time or responsibilities, although the advertising manager will find the job can be as creative and challenging as he or she wishes it to be. Finally, it's the sort of experience that looks great on a résumé. If you're interested at all and would like to learn more, please call me as soon as possible.

Debbie Barchi



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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

GUEST EDITOR: REGINA SLEZAK



As the importance of the role of the family is again being recognized within our society, libraries have become aware of their role in providing services for the family as a unit--not purely as individuals, adult or child, but also as family members. Serving people as individuals retains its importance to libraries, but added to this role is that of serving these individuals as members of a family. Special parenting collections and programs, family programs, special materials for use by parents with their children, and parent councils are all part of the kinds of services that have been developed and are being presented for families by libraries.

The articles in this issue for the most part deal with some aspect of service to families. Virginia Tashjian and Cynthia Neal describe family involvement in their libraries. For those interested in developing low cost creative materials for families with young children "A low cost library service for the young" should provide a wealth of useful ideas.

A brief look at library service to families in the Australian outback can be found in "Down Under and Outback". The article describes a service in an area about as far away from Rhode Island as one can get, yet with relevance to libraries here as well.

While it doesn't deal with a service to families, "An Unbirthday Party" deals with problems faced by anyone presenting programs. Lauri Burke delightfully tells of a program that didn't work--anyone who has had a program go wrong will surely appreciate the problems she faced.

I'd like to thank each contributor for their efforts in building the varied peices for this issue and Melody Brown for her helpful suggestions.



The Family: An Important Consumer
by
Virginia A. Tashjian

One of the most important services which the public library continues to provide in these times of social changes, fiscal unrest, mass-market supply and growing impersonal interchanges is service on a one-to-one basis to the individual as an important societal entity and, by extension, to his equally important family.

In our libraries, the individual still counts as a human being as well as an important consumer within the community. Because he functions primarily within the family unit, serving that family unit as a whole becomes an added concern and responsibility of the public library.

Thus, at the Newton Free Library, we try to take special pains to welcome the child alone; but we also actively solicit his patronage accompanied by other members of his family. We are convinced that a family who visits the library together, enjoys the touch and magic of books together, shares the pleasures of browsing and reading, and experiences library programs as a family unit will reap forever the joys provided by books and will become life-long friends and supporters of public libraries in their communities. To that end, the Newton Free Library has long directed some of its programming to the family group.

Storytelling, of course, lends itself most especially to the family setting. Indeed, in the beginning of times, storytelling was conceived as a family art and practiced first within the family circle. To recreate that informal, warm family setting, unfortunately fast disappearing in our society, and to set the stage for a literature-sharing experience by the whole family, our Newton Library scheduled a series of monthly story hours simply entitled "Family Storyhour".

The rules were simple: no child could attend unless accompanied by an adult. No adult could come unless accompanied by a child. Scheduled from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. with promptness a priority so that bedtime schedules would not be disrupted, the word went out that "to come as you are" was an acceptable dress code--and come they did...with some children in pajamas ready for bed immediately after the program.

Publicity for these family storyhours emphasized that they were not planned to be the pre-school type storyhours best left to the individual parent and child at his own bedside; rather, the stories to be shared were for the older school-age child and his parents. This was planned as a real literature-sharing event, and slowly but surely, the audiences who came shaped into the model originally hoped for by the storytellers. Indeed, some adults became regular storytelling addicts themselves and borrowed children of neighbors or relatives in order to qualify for attendance.

Programming for families has been an effective way to gain friends, increase readership and to expand the library's role as an important, focal center of community life. For example, during school vacation periods, film programs for the family have been scheduled. Appropriate film selections have attracted entire families to the library time after time. Festivals with activities and materials which appeal both to the child and the adult have been held.

Whenever possible, family use of the library has been targeted as a priority. Sometimes, simultaneous programming has been possible, i.e. a children's program in one room with another related program for parents in an adjoining room. In these sessions parents have enjoyed discussions on children's books, single-parent families, adoptive parents, etc.

Programming, of course, is only one small part of the total library service--and is unfortunately the most expendable, when fiscal constraints descend upon the library.

In Newton, as in other communities, we have been forced to decrease the quantity of our programming due to Massachusetts' Proposition 2½; nevertheless, the quality of our programming, both family and individual remains as high in calibre as we can make it. Moreover, we are committed to the thesis that "people count" and "families are important". To that end, we will continue our services to families!

Virginia A. Tashjian is the City Librarian at the Newton Free Library, Newton, MA.



Children and Families in the Library
by
Cynthia Neal

"Mom, there is a new book about Borrowers."

"Dad, I found a book on John F. Kennedy."

"This is Harry, my youngest brother. It is his first visit to the library."

"Gram, I need another half hour here for my science project."

Twenty years ago, Saturdays were a joyous, bustling and challenging time in the Children's Room of a Public Library. It was a never-ending stream of children accompanied by fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, grandfathers and grandmothers, older brothers and sisters. Members of a family would spread out to every section of the library to find books and then meet again in the Children's Room.

With the many changes in family habits, this use of the Library began to diminish and to recede. Now, there is a definite resurgence of family interest. Ten years ago, only a few children attending Saturday programs at the Central Library were accompanied by parents, but now almost all are. Parental interest in the selection of books, in the discussion of their children's reading, shows a marked increase. This involvement can take different forms depending upon the focus and orientation of the parent. For example, at the Mount Pleasant Branch Library, the pre-school story hours are immensely popular and approximately thirty-five percent of the mothers continue to visit the library with their children during their early school years. Several members of the Board for the newly formed "Friends of the Mount Pleasant Branch" are former pre-school mothers who are now eagerly recruiting others to join the organization.

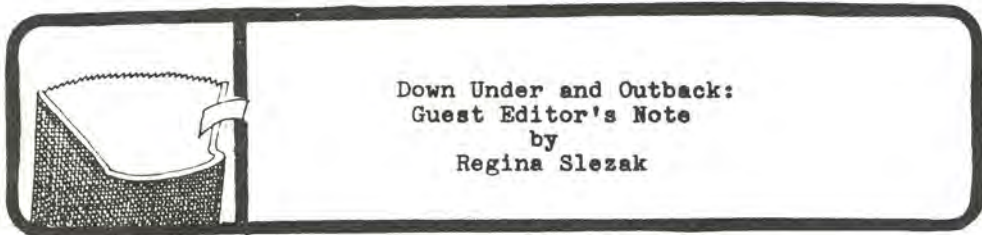
Continuing workshops, puppet shows, music and theater performances, and individualized reading sessions have been offered to children in Branches of the Providence Public Library through federal funding. The goal of these programs is to encourage children to read and it was recognized that it was necessary to reach the parents, as well as the children. In some neighborhoods many parents are shy about entering the library, but do believe it is a good place for their children. In the South Providence and Smith Hill Branches, open houses in the late afternoon hours have brought parents to see their children perform and to look at the exhibits their children have created. Often, the parents volunteer to bring the refreshments which is always encouraged because once a person gives of himself, he or she is more at ease with the institution. The next step was to form Parent Councils. These groups served as a channel for communication to the residents of the neighborhood. Through a series of meetings, the purpose of the projects became clear to the members and they in turn explained it to their friends and neighbors. They advertised the programs, they recruited children and assisted in the planning of the activities. Often, they reviewed past projects in terms of their children's

participation. Many of their excellent suggestions were incorporated in the workshops. They introduced the librarians to new community resources and they gave the staff insights and understandings about the neighborhood that were invaluable in implementing the many and varied programs for children.

Accessibility during the hours when families can visit the library together is an important factor. Once the Central Children's Room was moved from its isolation on the third floor to the first floor, many family groups were able to use all the library's resources in the early evening hours. The past three summers, the Central Library has been open on Saturdays during July and August and this has proved to be a very important incentive. Families literally flock to the library on these days.

Providence is a city with a rich and diverse cultural background. Some of the young parents who are now bringing their children to the library were themselves children of first generation parents. In some instances, their parents could not bring them to the library, but they found it on their own or were introduced to it through the school visiting program. Several have mentioned that the library was such a good experience for them that they now want to share it with their own children. It would be an interesting project to determine the number of parents who fit into this category and how significant a factor it is. Whatever the reasons, this upsurge in family use is very welcome. Now the challenge is to continue to encourage it--to keep libraries open hours that are convenient for families and to provide the materials that will meet their many needs and interests.

Cynthia Neal is the Coordinator of Children's Services, Providence Public Library.



Down Under and Outback:

Guest Editor's Note

by

Regina Slezak

A fifteen hour train ride from Sydney gave me my first views of Broken Hill. We had crossed 739 miles from the greenness of the coastline to the stark dryness of the outback. Broken Hill, a mining town of great success with a strong sense of identity, is a surprizingly green area in the midst of an otherwise harsh region.

I was there as part of the staff of the State Library of New South Wales to talk about the public library and its special project--the Outback Service.

The library staff had approached the problems of developing that service with creativity and enthusiasm. No agency in the community, no person who had contact with outback population was not contacted. The Wild Dog Warden brought contact with people living along the dog fence which stretches across Australia's interior. All vehicles making regular runs out to the properties were asked for cooperation.

The library staff had considered not only the physical task of getting to people living in the hard to reach places but worked on preparing materials to meet the needs of people served by this service.

My moving from the vast distances of New South Wales, Australia to the "biggest little state in the Union" has pointed up sharp contrasts between the two places, but at the same time, the parallels between the places have been great as well. Public libraries here are also dealing with communities that are made up of various groups. Implicit in the Outback Service is a belief that public library service is a community service that should be available to all parts of the community which might want it--even those portions of the community which might be difficult to reach or form only a small part of the community as a whole. This belief needs to be dealt with by all public libraries no matter where they are. Perhaps the vastness of the problem brought about by the realities of outback conditions make those problems all the more clear to people in libraries no matter where they are.



**Down Under and Outback
Library Service in the Australian Outback
by
Ilse O'Sullivan & John Liebich**

"It's just as if Santa Claus has arrived when the green bags are being unpacked," commented a Wilcannia mother whose two young children are members of the Outback Library Service available through the Broken Hill (Australia) City Library. This enthusiasm is shared by the more than 250 children and their families who are recipients of the service. These people are all scattered throughout the vast and sparsely settled Far Western Region of New South Wales, Australia. This region with a total population of 5,000 (excluding the City of Broken Hill) covers approximately 150,000 kilometers square or approximately 1/5 of the state of New South Wales.

It is a region in what is known in Australia as the Outback. Families living here are very often living at great distances from town or their neighbors in very isolated situations. The library service goes out to people living on properties or in remote townships with names like Tibooburra, Koonawarra, Milparinka, White Cliffs and Ivanhoe. Others live along dog fences designed to keep the dingoes out, on railway sidings, on outpost stations and range close to 1000 km from Broken Hill itself.

The outback Service which serves both adults and children began operation in 1977 with a grant of \$10,000 from the state of New South Wales. The project was funded in an effort to seek ways of serving isolated people who have traditionally had poor or negligible access to public library service. Broken Hill was to develop a means of providing library materials to the sparsely settled region in order to meet some of these library needs which had not been met in the past. In doing this, the library had to meet the challenges created by distance and isolation and meet special library needs created by living in an isolated situation, as well.

The service as it has been developed has been most enthusiastically received. It began with 184 members borrowing 4,150 pieces of material in 1977 and had grown to the point where 718 members had borrowed 27,500 pieces of material in 1980 and has continued to grow. Needless to say, this type of service has been fairly expensive and the funding has been increased to \$30,000 for the 1981/1982 fiscal year.

The service functions as an extension of the Broken Hill City Library and is based on existing print and non-print collections for the most part. It provides not only book materials but cassettes, magazines, games, jigsaws, and library created "read and do" kits.

These "read and do" kits are of special interest and particularly popular with young children. The kits have been specially designed by the library to meet the needs of the children they are serving. The children very often have little contact with other children and a limited range of experience because of their isolated situation. These kits were designed to supplement that lack.

Basically each kit consists of one or two non-fiction books and a story book about a particular subject, one or two simple props, and an activity card suggesting related activities which the child can carry out to extend his or her understanding of the subject. One typical kit which became a particular favorite is the "Dress Up Kit". It contains:

Books: Wolde, G. Thomas and Sarah Dress Up
The Dress (See How It's Made)
Clothes (MacDonald Starters)
Little Zip's Dressing Up Book

Props: Box of Dress ups (Clothes, hats, shoes, etc.)

Activity Card:

1. See if you can be a Lord Mayor or his wife like Sarah and Thomas were.
2. Can you dress up and be more people than Little Zip?
3. How many different people can you be?

Games have been especially selected with family use in mind. They too have been very popular with heaviest use being made of them during school vacation times.

As far as possible, conditions of loan have been kept the same as those for city dwellers. Materials are borrowed free of charge, with the library paying for postage or freight. It is estimated that postage for the project will cost \$6,000 for 1981/82.

Loan periods must be more flexible for inhabitants of the outback, as receipt of the material depends on weekly or bi-weekly mail runs. In the rainy season, flexibility is especially important as most roads are unpaved and heavy rains make them impassable even for four-wheel drive vehicles. At these times, materials aren't considered due until roads and airfields are again passable.

To cope with the abrasions, dust and mud associated with the service, finding appropriate packaging was important. Originally, particle board boxes were used, but they did not stand up well to the demands of travel. These boxes have been successfully replaced by green fibreglass reinforced bags with immensely strong zippers which have served to provide good protection in transit.

The problems of communicating with so widely scattered a community are great. Many means are being used to let everyone know about the availability of the service. To initially promote the service, the library decided to contact each individual property in the Far Western Region by sending each an introductory

letter. As part of this initial outreach, School of the Air which is based in Broken Hill was used. School of the Air provides schooling for children in isolated situations by means of two-way radio. As the majority of the station children gain their formal education in this way, it proved to be an ideal means for promoting the service to the families involved. Library staff have been featured on the School of the Air, and teachers have taken an active part in promoting the service not only to the children but to their families as well.

The library also received support from the local newspaper, radio and TV stations in promoting the service. However one of the most important means of spreading the news about this service has been by word of mouth, or as it is commonly known, "the bush telegraph".

Dealing with readers at so great a distance can be a problem. Library staff get to know outback readers chiefly through the borrowing slips which are included in each parcel. These give readers the opportunity to indicate the subject area and type of material they would like, or to request a specific title. (Many lists have been developed and circulate with the parcels to enable borrowers to be better aware of what the library has available.) These borrowing slips are kept on file and collectively forms a user profile which is used if a borrowing slip is not returned with a parcel.

More fun to the staff, though, were opportunities to meet outback readers personally. Staff members and children attend functions in Broken Hill, such as the annual School of the Air picnic. Staff have also made various trips to some of the smaller townships and individual station properties both as an opportunity to meet users as well as to spread the word about the service.

Despite the problems faced in developing this type of service, staff are enthusiastic. Enthusiasm on the part of the users of this service has been especially great. "Costs are going up, especially freight and postage," says John Gough, City Librarian, "but our readership is growing faster still. In fact we've had ten applications in the last two days alone. So long as there is some kind of mail run or car that can make it into Broken Hill periodically, we never knock anyone back. The feedback we get is very encouraging and readers often place enough trust in us to make the selection. Some of our greatest fans are out there in the bush."

Adapted with permission from an article by Ilse O'Sullivan and John Liebich, published in the March, 1981 Newsletter of the Public Libraries Division of the State Library of New South Wales.



An Unbirthday Party
by
Lauri Burke

"The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts,
All on a summer's day,
The Knave of Hearts he stole the tarts,
And with them ran away."
Old English Nursery Rhyme

During these frigid winter month, I think, sometimes, of that sunny afternoon in late May when the Barrington Public Library celebrated everyone's birthday with an "Unbirthday Party". The theme was taken from Lewis Carroll's book Alice in Wonderland. I thought it was a delightful concept, the idea of celebrating everyone's birthday in one joyous occasion. It was to be a peacefully happy party featuring music, balloons and children in Alice in Wonderland costumes frolicking on the library lawn. An idyllic day, graced by a huge "unbirthday cake" with pink and white frosting. I arranged to have several flute and guitar players from local elementary schools perform numbers from the musical book Songs from Alice (music by Don Harper, words by Lewis Carroll, illustrated by Charles Folkard).

The children and I met for a rehearsal two weeks before the occasion. It was only as we began to play the first selection, Pig and Pepper, that I began to have some slight inkling of what I was in for. A chaotic noise arose from the group, a sort of mashed-bagpipe sound, that sent a thrill of terror up my spine. "Children," I asked, "how long have you been playing your instruments?" Not very long, it seemed. Armed with this knowledge, I set about adapting the music, and adding some tunes from the Guitarists' First Book that the guitar players could manage.

I ordered a huge sheet cake from the local bakery; it was to have "Unbirthday to you" encribed on its top. A "Queen of Hearts" costume was loaned to me by a fellow Barrington staff member, Joan Schaefer, to wear on the day of the party. Flyers were created, duplicated and distributed to the local schools. I also went to each fourth grade classroom in town, told a story and hawked "Unbirthday invitations".

The day of the party dawned clear and bright. Several staff members helped me to blow up 100 colored balloons, and attached a string to each. I collected the cake from the bakery, then donned my "Queen of Hearts" costume and applied heart stickers and elaborate make-up to my face.

My musicians arrived at 3:00 and we ran through a last rehearsal of our program: Pig and Pepper; Twinkle, Twinkle Little Bat; Beautiful Soup; The Queen of Hearts; The Walrus and the Carpenter; and Row, Row, Row Your Boat (a concession

to the guitarists). Midway through Beautiful Soup we were arrested by the imperious voice of a blond seven-year-old boy. "That stinks" he told us, "it isn't music, it's just noise". "You", he said pointing at us, "are all playing different songs and you just don't know it!" He was right of course. But that didn't stop me from having to shield him with my body from physical harm as the other children rose and brandished their musical instruments at him in a threatening manner. After this interruption we finished rehearsing the music and I grabbed my flute, music stand, and curtain rod "scepter" and set out for the back lawn.

We arranged the table with cake and punch as the lawn began to fill with Cheshire Cats, ambulatory playing cards, and little "Alices". After the balloons were passed out, we set up our music stands for the performance. Just as I had inclined the end of my flute for the downbeat and we had launched into the first bars of Pig and Pepper, I heard a faint roaring noise off to my left. I stole a look during a rest measure in the music and saw a large mowing machine descending upon our little band. The noise increased in volume as the mower drew nearer, totally drowning our our squeaky rendition of "Pig". Children started running hither and yon screaming "Mommy, Mommy!". I hurriedly called a halt to the music--grasped my black, wrought iron "scepter" and took out after the mechanical beast threatening my party. "Halt, Halt!" I shrieked, falling into my "Queen of Hearts" character. I ran directly into the path of the mowing machine brandishing my "scepter". My flashing red tights and animated motions must have startled the operator, as he slowed, and finally stopped his machine. It turned out that this was the day that "Public Works" had decreed that the lawn should be mowed. This man could see no way around it. I was saved from being cut down in my prime by his boss, who decided that mowing dates are made to be broken. Once again, the band struck up with Pig and Pepper, and this time we completed the whole musical program to relieved applause.

It was then time for the cake. We cut, and cut, and cut, and still they came. The pieces got smaller and smaller--and still they came. Hungry characters from Alice in Wonderland in an infinite line. Finally, I realized that no matter how small we cut the pieces, the remaining cake would not feed those who stood waiting in that line. It was time for action. I did the sensible thing. I panicked, and attempted to leap into my Toyota with my sandwich board-sized playing cards flapping against the steering wheel. I didn't fit. So I got out, ripped the cards off my body and climbed into the car once again. So it came to pass that a crazed woman in a red leotard suit (sans cards) with red hearts stuck all over her face ran into a local convenience store. Not one person in that store, located in sane, respectable Barrington, flickered an eyelash as I stormed into the establishment and began rabidly to search the shelves for goodies.

A dull-faced boy stood at the cash register; he was obviously new to the check-out game. He didn't know about prices, or making change. He was an extremely slow-moving individual. I, on the other hand, was in a bit of a hurry. I plunked the punch and doughnuts down on the counter with a loud thud, a signal to the lad that I was ready to be processed with no delay. He hesitated over my selections, looking puzzled. "Punch", I rasped "98¢", "doughnuts, 2 packages of 12, \$3.00". "I think", he drawled, "that there's a special on the punch today, I'll go look it up." He began to shuffle lethargically off toward the back room. "Stop--right there", I commanded, back into my Queen of Hearts role, "I've got thirty children waiting for me back there at the library--if they don't get their punch and doughnuts there's liable to be a riot!" He revolved cautiously, eyeing me in disbelief, and returned to ring up my purchases, as marked. I still wonder what he told his Mommy when he got home from work that night...

I ran to the car, sped over to the Library and squealed into the parking lot just as the last "piece" of cake (looking more like a crumb) was handed to the last child. Twenty-five more still stood in line, their mouths gaping expectantly like those of small birds. They let out a cheer when they saw me, and I handed out doughnuts and poured punch like a conquering hero.

After all had been fed, two of my favorite small library patrons came up to me with a gaily wrapped package. "Happy Unbirthday to Lauri" was written on its tag in a childish scrawl. I was sincerely touched--"How nice, a reward for all of my hard work" I thought. When I had unraveled the ribbon and peeled the wrapping, I opened the box. It was empty. "Happy Unbirthday", they chorused, and ran off giggling. I threw my scepter at them, and went inside.

Lauri Burke, formerly Children's Librarian and Queen of Hearts is now Adult Services Librarian at Barrington Public Library.





**A Low Cost Library Service for the Young:
An Uplifting Tale for a Depressed Time**

by
**Margaret Bierden, Mary Ellen Hardiman,
and William Bianchi**

This is a tale of a low cost program for providing library services for young children which also has the potential of fostering community involvement, garnering good publicity, providing program ideas, raising funds, and is fun to create, oversee and administer.

Aimed primarily at one, two, and three year old children and their parents, this program of service has been developed under an Incentive Grant from the Department of State Library Services entitled "Parenting Project Collection". Four public libraries in the towns of North Providence, Johnston, and Smithfield received the grant to create circulating packages called Play and Learn (PAL) Bags. These bags are designed to provide inexpensive, creative learning experiences for children and involve their parents in the play experience and/or creation of the materials. Because the current depressed economic situation has had the effect of shortening the time some parents have to spend with their children due to the necessity of working longer hours, holding down two jobs, or having both parents work, it was deemed appropriate to embark on such a venture at this time. At the same time, lay offs, shutdowns, and strikes have increased the time available to others, but has depleted family budgets, making the purchase of educational and creative toys a strain on family finances. In either case, many parents are looking for the opportunity to enhance the quality of the precious time they have with their children.

The project was intended to be a drawing card to entice both parents and their children into continuous use of all aspects of the library. In other words, we hope to create library addicts by getting children hooked on the library habit early in life.

Mrs. Margaret Bierden was named Project Coordinator. After spending time researching the skills and development of the young child and collecting ideas from many people and sources, she set about creating a core collection of thirty to forty PAL Bags for each participating library. The bags, or kits, are made up for the most part of inexpensive, easily made or easily obtained and duplicatable materials relating to themes such as shapes, colors, sizes or textures.

The PAL Bags cover a variety of activities. One of the more popular for all ages has been the road map. It is a map of a town made of felt buildings and roads glued on a large rectangular piece of fabric. A child lays the map on the floor placing items underneath to create hills, valleys, etc. and using the car included in the bag or any of his own toy vehicles, to "drive" around the town. This map lends itself to creative play for one to several children.

Another PAL Bag contains a dowel xylophone, consisting of four dowels of different lengths and colors together with a mallet. The young child enjoys just hitting the sticks, while the older child can rearrange the sticks and relate the sounds to a song he knows. For a more advanced version, directions are included for cutting lengths of wood to create specific notes.

Hopscotch is a very easily made PAL Project. Lines and numbers are drawn with permanent marker on a piece of vinyl (approximately two feet by four feet). The youngest child will just like to jump, gradually trying to jump in the squares. The progression of jumping will lead the child to hopping on one foot in the squares with one number and on two feet in the double squares. Older brothers and sisters may throw a marker and play the actual game of hopscotch, but for the one, two and three year old child, jumping is the most fun. To add to its versatility, this game board can also be used as a tossing game with bean bags.

Other PAL Bags that circulated often were the Girl and Boy Felt Dolls. The bottom of a flat hosiery box is lined with felt. A felt doll is cut out and glued in the box. Clothes are also made from felt and are decorated as elaborately or simply as one would like. The child uses the clothes to dress and undress the doll. An envelope is glued to the inside of the cover of the box to hold the clothes. Patterns for the dolls and clothes are included in the master book as well.

The Lunch Box is a very versatile, easily produced activity center particularly well suited for traveling. The lid of an ordinary metal lunch box is painted with chalkboard paint. Chalk and an eraser are included with the kit for added interest. To fascinate the child with the magic of magnetism, magnetic tape has been sewn inside two small pieces of felt. This box is designed for a child to carry whenever there is waiting to do--in the car, at the beach, at the doctor's or dentist's office, etc. The child can take along any of his favorite things that fit in the lunch box. For longer trips, a snack could be included as well as other surprises that meet the needs and interests of the child. These widely used examples of the PAL Bags offered, show the wide range of activities covered by this project. A complete list of available kits can be found at the end of this article.

All items in each kit are placed in heavy-weight plastic bags with handles for ease of display and visibility. Each PAL Bag also contains a laminated card listing: 1) the contents of the bag, 2) how it can be used with a child, 3) the materials included, 4) the directions on how to make the item, and 5) the approximate cost. The card for the PAL Bag titled "Color Matching Box" would appear as follows:

TITLE Color Matching Box

Age Range 2 - 3
Cost Under \$1.00

CONTENTS

Box

8 Clothespins of different colors (red, yellow, orange, green, blue, brown, black and purple)

#5 Bag

USE

The child matches the color of the clothespin to the colored strip on the box. For the younger child, the ability to match the color is more important than naming the colors. Clipping the clothespin on the box helps strengthen the pincer muscles, which are necessary for beginning writing and cutting skills.

The child could also clip pieces of colored paper to the right color on the box.

MATERIALS

Box with lid (shoe box is good)

1 inch strips of colored construction paper--8 different colors (red, yellow, orange, green, blue, brown, black, and purple)

8 clothespins (pinch type)

DIRECTIONS

Use any sturdy box. Glue strips of construction paper to the sides of the box. The clothespins can be colored with felt pens as in this kit or small pieces of colored paper can be glued to the sides. For added durability, cover the colored striped sides of the box with clear contact paper.

A master book containing directions for the making and upkeep of the collection has been compiled and is available at each participating library and from the Coordinators of the Regional Interrelated Library Systems and the Children's Services Librarian of the Department of State Library Services and the Providence Public Library System. Any library desiring its own copy of the master book would be directed to contact their Regional Coordinator, otherwise photocopies can be obtained from any of the four participating libraries at the expense of the requesting library.

During the first nine months of the project, an evaluation sheet was placed in each bag whenever it circulated. The patron was requested to give information about the age of the child using it, its suitability for that age group, the difficulty level, the amount of enjoyment for the adult and the child, and suggestions for improvement. These evaluation sheets have been of great value to the project. In general, the response from parents has been favorable. Both the parents and the children have derived enjoyment from the PAL Bags; sometimes much to the parent's amazement since the parent may not have thought that the theme presented would appeal to the child. As a result of

constructive criticism offered by the parents, a few revisions have been made concerning the durability and the safety of the PAL Bags. Another very positive by-product of the evaluations has been the suggestions for new PAL Bags which have been produced, and other worthwhile suggestions which have been written up and added to the Master Books for general information purposes.

Through the evaluation process, it has been learned that parents are duplicating some of the materials for their children. Also, day care mothers have shown an interest. It is hoped that through publicity and personal contact, more day care centers and nursery schools will become aware of this project.

The PAL Bags have been designed so that each library will be able to maintain its own collection after the initial period of the project ends. All materials are designed with the twin goals of safety and ease of replacement in mind; worn, lost or soiled parts of kits can be duplicated with little expense.

This in one program virtually every library, from the largest to the smallest, could afford if they are interested. The average price of the first twenty-four PAL Bags produced was \$2.51 per kit. The only problem a library may encounter is that this project is very labor intensive. However, even this obstacle can really become a benefit in disguise, when approached properly.

Since this project is so labor intensive, it presents a perfect opportunity for community involvement through volunteers. The master book was specifically designed to make the program adaptable to volunteer efforts. All directions are clearly stated, so that the work can be done at a time and place of the volunteers choosing. An added benefit when asking a club, such as a women's club, to undertake an effort such as this, is that they will often underwrite the cost of supplies necessary, as well as contributing their services. Many volunteer sources exist in all communities for a project such as this, from the obvious women's clubs or, Junior Women's Clubs, to Friends of the Library groups, to older Girl Scouts, 4-H groups, or Camp Fire Girls. Many communities have active senior citizens groups with many excellent craftspeople who would be more than willing to bridge the generation gap. A special group of people for whom such a project would have added meaning are nursing home patients or other people who are handicapped/homebound. Their participation would reinforce a positive self-image as a useful, contributing human being who is both concerned for and participating in the life of the community. The PAL Bag Project as one can plainly see, has great programming potential. Many of the items could be made or at least started in one session. Parents, grandparents, older siblings, indeed almost anyone could find something to entice their interest while putting little or no strain on their budget.

Another programming potential would involve a specifically assembled volunteer group. A group of adults could be invited to help out at collection creating sessions. During the summer,

preteens could be organized into a PAL Club. This type of meeting would also be of particular interest to the mothers of children attending story hour sessions whom we have found to be more than willing to help out when asked.

The Parenting Project collection has great public relations/publicity value. Everyone loves kids, especially young ones. Pictures of cute kids abound in even the larger statewide newspapers, especially on community news days or during the summer. If having the collection itself will draw some good press, any community involvement adds another "human interest dimension" and multiplies your chances of a big publicity splash exponentially.

This project even has the potential of being self-supporting, if not actually profitable. A well-organized Friends of the Library group or other library auxiliary could take orders for kits or make them on speculation to add interest to a book sale or other library event.

With a little effort, your library can reap many benefits by instituting a PAL Bag Project, such as: 1) offer a new service, 2) attract and serve a "new" clientele, 3) expand your base of community support, 4) provide materials for in-house use by siblings during story hour programs, or by children during adult programming, 5) garner good publicity/public relations, 6) present prepared programming, and 7) raise funds. Most importantly, the "Parenting Project" concept offers an opportunity for virtually all public libraries to expand their services, even in this time of tight budgets and a poor economy. It is an enjoyable undertaking to create and oversee a project offering so many possibilities for the involvement of both the staff and the public. The only limits to this project are the imagination of individual library staff members.

DESCRIPTION OF PAL BAGS

1. ACTIVITY BOOK--Cloth book with activity on each page
2. BABY MIRROR--Doublesided nonglass mirror
3. BIG & LITTLE--Circles, squares and triangles of paper are laminated on tag board. Small pieces are also laminated and used for matching
4. BOY FELT DOLL--Equivalent of Girl Felt Doll
5. BUSY BOARD--Board with various gadgets attached--i.e. bolt, book, etc.
- 6-8. CARDBOARD BOOKS--3 different books at each library
9. COLOR MATCHING BOX--Box with strips of colored paper glued on sides and cloths pins colored with the corresponding colors
10. COLOR PADDLES--3 Transparent plastic paddles on a chain
11. DOLL HOUSE--Large piece of fabric with rooms and basic furniture drawn on with liquid embroidery
12. DOWEL XYLOPHONE--4 dowels of various lengths and a mallet
13. EASY GRASP BALL--Cloth ball for infants
14. GIANT MAGNET--Large magnet set in horseshoe shaped plastic
15. GIRL FELT DOLL--Small flat box with felt girl doll glued on bottom--sets of doll clothes to dress doll in envelope on box

16. GLOVE BABY TOY--Cotton work glove stuffed with various objects
17. HAND PUPPETS--Puppets of a basic pattern that can easily be adapted to a puppet of the child's choice
18. HOPSCOTCH--Large piece of vinyl marked like a playground game
19. HOW DOES IT FEEL?--4 wooden disks with various materials glued on
20. LEARNING TO CUT--3 different types of training scissors
21. LUNCH BOX--Metal lunch box with the lid painted with black-board paint. Chalk, erasers and magnets inside box
22. MATCHING THINGS--Plastic containers with pictures glued on bottom and objects to match pictures--i.e. spool, key, etc.
23. MILK CARTON BLOCKS--Simply blocks of various sizes made out of milk cartons
24. MIRRORS AND REFLECTIONS--Books on mirrors and mylar paper for a mirror
25. NESTING BOWLS--4 plastic bowls of various sizes with covers
26. PICTURE PUZZLES--3 laminated magazine pictures cut into pieces
27. PLASTIC LACING LIDS--Plastic lids with holes punched around a design and shoe laces for lacing
28. PLAY HOUSE--Cloth house that fits over card table
29. PLAY SNAKE--Cloth snake of five sections fastened together with buttons, velcro, lacing, and snaps
30. PONCHOS--3 doll size ponchos and one child size poncho
31. ROAD MAP--Large piece of fabric with pieces of felt glued on to create a map of an area with a school, fire station, church, park, etc.
32. SHAPES--8 wooden blocks of various shapes and colors in cloth bag
33. SOFT BLOCKS--8 foam blocks covered with fabric
34. SPONGE CUTOUTS--4 sponges with simple shapes cut out
35. STRINGING THINGS--Spools, beads, and blocks and a shoelace
36. THROW AND CATCH--"Art foam" mitt and small ball with velcro strips for easy catching
37. WOODEN CAR--A handmade car of a simple design

The Project Director is available at the North Providence Union Free Library and is willing to speak to individuals or interested groups of people to explain the program in greater detail.

Margaret Bierden is the PAL Kit Project Coordinator, Mary Ellen Hardiman is the librarian at the North Providence Union Free Library, and William Bianchi is the Administrative Assistant at the North Providence Union Free Library.



A Report on Automation Week
by
Frances Farrell & Dorothy Frechette

October 26-30, 1981, was Automation Week in Rhode Island's libraries, and it turned out to be one of the most successful cooperative ventures in recent years.

Co-sponsored by the Department of State Library Services and PPL in its role as Principal Public Library, Automation Week was conceived as a way for librarians from all over the state to see various types of automation currently in operation. It can be quite difficult to imagine the uses of some products when standing in a crowded convention hall. Automation Week allowed librarians to see how individual libraries have interpreted the applications of the new technology for their own routines. It also gave participants a clearer picture of the "state of the art" in Rhode Island.

Eleven libraries, both academic and public, opened their doors to over one hundred inquisitive librarians and demonstrated a wide variety of automated procedures. Mini Marc, word processing, microcomputers, OCLC, RLIN, CLSI: all of these nebulous phrases and acronyms gradually became for many participants familiar "keys into the language" of machinery which is changing the way libraries relate to each other and to their clientele.

When the week was over, evaluation sheets were sent out both to host libraries and to attendees. Here are some reactions from the eight host libraries which responded:

- Were you able to accomodate the number of persons attending?
Yes--all eight
- Should Automation Week be held again?
Yes--all eight
- If so, when? All eight indicated various times; all times suggested were within two years
- Would you participate (i.e., be a host or demonstration library) again? Yes--all eight

General comments from host libraries:

- "Broadened my perspective on the worth and helpfulness of my automated system."
- "There is a definite need for librarians to exchange information on their experiences with automation. Perhaps DSLS could include in the monthly newsletter a section on automation and its progress in R.I."
- "Idea is good--make it an annual event!"
- "The interchange of ideas the visits promoted was an extremely valuable aspect of Automation Week."

Responses from attendees showed that CLSI and Mini Marc drew the most interest, followed closely by OCLC and the data-base searching capabilities of Brown and URI. PPL's Project Inform--on-line information for patrons--was also a popular attraction. Microcomputers were scattered around the state, and enough people appeared at each location--DSLs and Lincoln Public Library for the Apple, West Warwick Public Library for the TRS-80--to indicate a genuine interest in the adaptability of these small wonders for in-house procedures.

Here are some of the replies to the question, "What did you find most helpful?"

- "The OCLC demonstration--I had never seen the system working."
- "Information on savings actually effected."
- "The possibility of shared use of CLSI was very interesting. Helpful to see the Mini Marc in actual operation and have opportunity for questions directed to a user of the system."

As for comments on the over-all concept of Automation Week:

- "I think Automation Week was very successful. It is very interesting and helpful to see the various systems in action and to see how the various libraries handle work flow."
- "Because I had attended these programs, I got a lot more out of the RILA presentations than I would have otherwise. I found them all very informative."
- "I'm in a small library and we don't have any of the systems. Reading about them doesn't quite give the same information that seeing a demonstration does."

The attendees who responded to the evaluations also indicated that Automation Week should be held again, preferably within the next two years. We do recommend to the sponsoring agencies, DSLs and PPL, that Automation Week be held again within two years. Even if there is no new automation on the Rhode Island scene, which is highly unlikely, libraries will have new staff members who could benefit from the general overview that Automation Week provides. We also think that Automation Week would have even greater impact if it were preceded by a short course on computers and current automation in Rhode Island libraries.

Frances Farrell is Coordinator, Providence Public Library.
Dorothy Frechette is Supervisor of Media Services, DSLs.
Special thanks to Arlene Sherman of DSLs who tabulated evaluation responses.



ALA MEETING NOTES
MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

ALA MIDWINTER

3,850 attendees gathered in near-balmy Denver weather to conduct the business of the American Library Association. The focus continued to be on the Operating Agreement between Divisions and ALA offices, and the Divisional Conferences. Council Orientation, the Chapter Conclave meeting, the Planning and Budget Assembly, the Council Caucus, the Division meetings, all attempted to offer background, a forum for debate, clarification of the issues and implications, both pro and con--for decision-making in Philadelphia. Separating the two has helped uncomplicate the issues. The Chapter Conclave (meeting of all states' Chapter Councilors) also offered a forum for those Councilors from states where Divisional Conferences are scheduled to be held, to voice their concerns; particularly in regard to the financial impact the conferences may have on their own state association meetings.

On another front, Chapter Councilors, disgruntled by the elimination of the ALA Chapter Office and transfer of the Chapter Officer to the Public Information Office, prepared a letter of inquiry to the Executive Director.

Executive Board spokesperson, Ella Yates-Edwards, shared with Council Members the thinking that went into the proposed Executive Board reorganization. In an effort to make the Executive Board more accountable to the Membership, its roles and responsibilities have been redefined. The final draft holds the Executive Board, through a new committee structure, responsible for working with ALA Headquarters in the following areas: Administrative, Direction and Program Review, Finance and Audit, Personnel. Policy Monitoring, Building and Honorary Members Committees (already established) would remain. The purpose of the proposed committees is "to develop a tighter structure with better managerial capabilities and with sufficient information to carry out the Board's responsibilities." It is also believed that the newly-established priorities of ALA will be more efficiently addressed by creating a closer working relationship with ALA offices.

Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director, brought to the attendees' attention his concern that the \$250,000 debt (due by September) for new Headquarters offices, will not be met.

The internal struggles of the Association were not the only issues, however. Federal funding and library legislation; the Office of Personnel Management's reclassification of federal librarians to "technicians" status; intellectual freedom struggles (much on the increase); closing GPO stores; all these are of critical concern. And in one way or another, they all threaten access to information for American citizens.

A clearly and strongly-worded resolution challenging the OPM reclassification of federal librarians, supplemented by a "plan of action", was unanimously endorsed. It seems that the library profession will not quietly permit its own downgrading.

The following Intellectual Freedom documents were presented to Council: 1) Policy on the Confidentiality of Records; 2) Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights as it applies to:

- a) Administrative Policies and Procedures Affecting Access to Library Resources and Service (including minors)
 - b) Library Initiated Programs as a Resource
- 3) Intellectual Freedom Strategies for the 1980s; 4) Resolution Regarding the General Education Provisions Act, which would remove federal restrictions against interference with the selection of instructional materials.

GODORT presented two resolutions: 1) on Bookstore/Publications, and 2) Guidelines for State Documents Checklist.

Chapter, Division, and At-Large Councilors from six New England states met to consider forming a New England Regional Caucus. Their areas of discussion were:

- 1) Appropriateness of such a Caucus
- 2) Exchange of ideas
- 3) Items of concern
- 4) Programs at regional and state meetings
- 5) National problems of concern to New England

They are planning to reconvene in Philadelphia to further explore these ideas, and the idea of a caucus itself.

Although the Midwinter Conference is a business meeting, the Office of Library Personnel Resources' (OLPR) "Pay Equity Update" and a LAMA-sponsored panel on "Women as Negotiators" offered some new insights. OLPR is preparing a kit filled with useful pay-equity information for local use. A video cassette, "We've Come A Long Way, Maybe", presented on commercial television in 1981 was shown. Its use as a consciousness-raising/discussion tool for local groups was evaluated and considered to be excellent. Ordering information for the kit and cassette appends these notes. Barbara Conroy and others offered specific tips and techniques for women to use to effectively negotiate both formally, (contracts, etc.) and informally (with staff, other managers, etc.).

-----Tune in next time to learn what Rhode Island librarians are doing about some of these concerns.

- 1) Pay Equity: Comparable Worth Action Guide. An information resource packet written and compiled by Helen Josephine for the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship and OLPR as a result of the 1980 ALA Goal Award. Contents include: action strategies, case summaries of library-related actions, comparable worth definitions, a reprint of "Equal Pay Fight", and a copy of Equal Pay for Work of Comparable Worth: An Annotated Bibliography - ALA/OPR, \$10.00 prepaid.
- 2) "You've Come a Long Way, Maybe". WCCO Videotape Loan Library. 50 South 9th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402. (612) 330-2441. \$30 (rental) \$100 (purchase).

Jody Bush,
ALA Councilor



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MEETING NOTES

COLA UPDATE

The Coalition of Library Advocates continues to gain momentum and cohesion. At a meeting of COLA members on February 8th, Joan Reeves, Chairperson, and Bruce Daniels presented the definition and the goal of the group. The definition: "An advocate--one who pleads the case of another; one who defends some special cause." The goal: "To marshall the forces of member groups to support the purposes of libraries."

The structure of the group was also defined. There will be four task forces:

1. Friends and Trustees Group, chaired by Christine King, whose purpose is to create a statewide network of friends and a statewide network of trustees, and to use these networks for library advocacy.
2. Library Advocacy Group, chaired by Beth Perry, whose purpose is to build a broad-based support system composed of non-member groups, and to activate this system to support library issues.
3. Library Organizations Group, chaired by Howard Boksenbaum, whose purpose is to foster coordination and communication among the membership organizations in COLA.
4. Library Promotion Group, chaired by Herman Rose, whose purpose is to promote the purposes of libraries and to produce a library fair.

The membership is to be composed of sixteen Rhode Island library associations; individuals and libraries can be involved only through their associations. Presidents of these groups have been invited to participate in a Coalition meeting on March 11th.

Several actions were initiated at the February 8th meeting. Joan Reeves has submitted a letter to members of the General Assembly and Congressional delegates announcing the birth of COLA, stating the resolutions of the Governor's Conference, and advising them that the group is interested in further library funding. Plans are also developing for a Celebration of Rhode Island Libraries to be held at the Warwick Mall in early June. All Library associations will be invited to display the diversity of their services to the citizenry of the state. The Celebration is perceived as a public relations event inspiring the most creative efforts of the member libraries. For more information on the Celebration, see the "Bulletin Board" in this issue.

Jean Sheridan, Reporter



meeting notes



CITIZENS GROUP MEETS

The second annual meeting of Citizens for Rhode Island Libraries, Inc. met on February 3rd at the Pawtucket Public Library. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the new Pawtucket facilities. Officers of the organization were unanimously reelected to their positions. They are:

President--Herman Rose

Vice-Presidents--William Allen & Albert C. Henry, Jr.

Treasurer--Janina D'Abate

Corresponding Secretary--Manoog Michael Kaprielian

Legislative Chair--Mary Kiernan

President Herman Rose then acquainted the group with the three focuses of the Citizens organization: a proposed newsletter, an educational campaign, and public relations. The educational aims are "to endow citizen members with confidence about library needs, library services, and access to personal survival information." The newsletter will be sent to legislators and citizens and will focus on Rhode Island libraries and library concerns.

Following the business meeting, Dr. Bernie Schlessinger, Dean of URI Graduate Library School, addressed the gathering about citizen advocacy. He stressed the need for citizens' groups to become active advocates for libraries with people who control funds since trustee and Friends groups so often become identified as part of the institution. Dr. Schlessinger is optimistic about the future of libraries despite funding difficulties because libraries definitely have something to sell. What is needed is more publicity about what libraries are facing.

Sondra Giles, Reporter



PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS



RECLASSIFICATION OF FEDERAL LIBRARIANS

Responding to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) proposed new classification and qualification standards for federal librarians and technical information specialists, ALA submitted a Resolution to that Office and requested that ALA members comment immediately on the effect that the new classifications will have on the library profession. RILA President Anne Parent, on behalf of the Association and with Board approval, sent letters to the Office of Personnel Management and to Senator Claiborne Pell opposing the plan. Copies of the letters were sent to the ALA Washington Office and to the Office of Library Personnel Resources (OLPR) in Chicago.

OLPR, working with the ALA Washington Office and the Federal Librarians Round Table, established a Steering Committee which is coordinating and unifying the responses. The final document is to be prepared by the Steering Committee members by March 1st. and sent to Robert Wedgeworth, ALA Executive Director; Elizabeth Stone, ALA President; and Eileen Cooke, Director, ALA Washington Office. After approval by the Executive Director, final response with documentation on each of the "whereas" clauses will be transmitted to OPM no later than March 10, 1982. Following is the ALA Resolution:



RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED REVISION OF FEDERAL CLASSIFICATION
AND QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
SERVICES POSITIONS

- 1) WHEREAS, on December 8, 1981, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released tentative standards for library and information services positions throughout the federal government with requests for suggested revisions by February 6, 1982. Only those requesting additional time for review and comment, like the American Library Association, have received an extension until March 10, 1982; and
- 2) WHEREAS, OPM has not notified and consulted with the library and information services community adequately to evaluate the full range of library personnel management needs and objectives nor adequately informed affected library and information services personnel of the existence of the proposed standards; and
- 3) WHEREAS, the proposed draft standards for federal library and information services positions exclude from the professional occupational series those positions encompassing single specialized functions such as reference, bibliography, and cataloging and place them in a new non-professional series; and
- 4) WHEREAS, this distinction between these series is based on misconceptions as to the high level and breadth of the knowledges, skills and abilities needed to perform library and information services; and
- 5) WHEREAS, the proposed standards diminish the importance of the MLS (masters degree in library science) as a basic qualification for providing professional library and information services by allowing minimal and possibly irrelevant non-professional experience to be substituted for education to a much greater extent than under the present federal standards; and
- 6) WHEREAS, the proposed standards set the entry level for persons holding the MLS at a level lower than that for persons holding masters degrees in other professional occupations; and
- 7) WHEREAS, the creation of the new series for bibliographic library and information services positions will place the majority of female federal librarians into a non-professional series thereby perpetuating past patterns of sex discrimination in the federal service; and
- 8) WHEREAS, State and local position standards in publicly-supported libraries are influenced by federal personnel standards; and

- 9) WHEREAS, the accumulated effect of all these changes is to threaten the effectiveness and timeliness of federal library and information services which would ultimately affect the quality of decision making in the federal government and reduce the high standards which exist in federal libraries; and
- 10) WHEREAS, the library and information science profession integrates advanced scientific, technical, cultural, linguistic and other subject expertise with sophisticated delivery methodologies, strategies and procedures in order to guarantee public and private access to the world's collective store of knowledge; now, therefore be it
- 11) RESOLVED, that the American Library Association oppose the draft standards and urge the Office of Personnel Management not to issue the proposed classification and qualification standards for library and information services positions in their present form; and be it
- 12) FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge the Office of Personnel Management to re-examine the proposed standards and develop a single classification standard for professional librarians and information services personnel rather than split the functions into two occupational series, one professional and one non-professional. The revised single professional GS 1410 series should more accurately reflect the nature, mission, operations, and staffing of federal library and information services; and be it
- 13) FURTHER RESOLVED, that the qualification standards continue to emphasize the importance of the MLS as a basic requirement to assure professional library and information services of a caliber required by the nation's decision makers and expected by the American public; and be it
- 14) FURTHER RESOLVED, that holders of the MLS degree be qualified for entry into the federal service at the same grade level as holders of masters degrees in other professional occupations; and be it
- 15) FURTHER RESOLVED, that OPM hold hearings in all ten OPM regions to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the full range and complexity of federal library and information services positions; and be it
- 16) FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Personnel Management actively involve the American Library Association and other appropriate organizations in the revision of the draft standards.

Approved by:
Committee on Legislation
Federal Librarians Round Table
OLPR Advisory Committee
Standing Committee on Library Education
Committee on Standards

Non-policy

No prior history



PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS

LIBRARY IN CRISIS

A controversy has erupted at the Pawtucket Public Library between the Director and the full-time staff. The firing of the Director's secretary has triggered a united effort by library employees to make public their long-standing grievances. In a letter to Mayor Henry S. Kinch, the staff members have protested the "despotic reign" of Director Lawrence Eaton and his wife, Lee, the Community Services Coordinator. An additional charge of misuse of Northern Interrelated Library System funds by the Northern Region's Advisory Board has prompted an audit of the Regional account by the Department of State Library Services. According to a Pawtucket employee, since delivering the staff's letter to the Mayor's office, the Regional Coordinator, Ellen Spilka, has been severely restricted in the performance of her job by Director Eaton.

Eaton and his wife have countered that the library's problems came about from the clash of tradition versus non-tradition. They say that the staff is resistant to all change, even change that benefits the community, and that the staff resents the many lively public relations programs, such as the recent very successful sale of star's shoes.

Staff members have filed grievances with Local 1012 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the union which began representing the library's full-time staff after a state court ruling last fall that librarians must be brought into the city workers' bargaining unit. RILA's grievance procedures are also being investigated. At least nineteen of the full-time staff members signed the letter to Mayor Kinch, although some part-time, non-unionized employees have supported the Eatons in the controversy.



government relations

- The committee is sending out a Legislative Newsletter twice a month to keep members as current as possible on developments on both the national and state levels.

intellectual freedom

- Jacquelyn Toy, Intellectual Freedom co-chair, and Howard Boksenbaum, RILA Vice-President, were interviewed recently on WEAN about censorship and intellectual freedom. They mentioned to listeners the card the committee has prepared to help librarians and others: "What to Do When the Censor Comes." Anyone interested in obtaining copies of it can contact Jackie (421-1499) or Bill Bergeron (781-9580).
- At the request of RILA, the Council for Community Services is offering a new service: A CENSORSHIP HOTLINE 351-6500. The hotline, which operates 24 hours a day, including holidays, will refer callers to the appropriate Intellectual Freedom contact person for information and assistance with censorship problems. The Council also gives information on other problems at that same number.

public relations

- The Public Relations Committee is promoting a unique campaign for a fine-free week at participating libraries during National Library Week, April 18-24. Watch for their ads in unusual places and be sure to fill out the Public Relations questionnaire in this issue to help them promote libraries and librarians in Rhode Island.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- RILA Bulletin Editor-in-Chief Deborah Barchi and her husband Carl, who is with Vocational Rehabilitation Services, are expecting their first child around the first of June. Debbie will be continuing as our Editor after the new arrival.
- Sally Grucan, Technical Services Librarian at the R.I. Historical Society Library and President of RI/JMRT, is the JMRT liaison with the RILA Executive Board.
- Dorothy Leach, Librarian at the Pontiac Free Library in Warwick, retired on January 2nd after twenty-two years at the library. Her replacement is Michele Tomasso, a former elementary and preschool teacher. Michele holds a B.A. degree from Rhode Island College with a double major in elementary education and social sciences.
- Paul Jolicoeur, former ILL Librarian at CCRI/Warwick, has assumed a position of Technical Services Librarian at Pace University in New York. The new ILL Librarian at CCRI/Warwick is Sonita Cummings who has been at Warwick Public Library while Carol Drought has been on maternity leave.
- Angel-Anne Randall is the new Children's Librarian at Cranston Public Library. She was the Children's Librarian at the Cumberland Public Library. Angel will be stationed at the William Hall Library until the new central library opens and will supervise children's services for the Cranston system.
- John Bucci, former Reference Librarian at William Hall Library in Cranston and most recently at Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland, is now Reference Librarian at Simon's Rock of Bard College in Greater Barrington, Mass.
- Sydney Wright, former Western Regional Coordinator and former Shared Resources Coordinator at Brown University, has been appointed Director of the North Attleboro Public Library replacing Wally Mason who has retired.
- Stephanie and Myron Kirkes recently had a baby boy, Neil. Stephanie was Arlington Branch Librarian in Cranston. Myron was Northern System Coordinator and is now Government Documents Librarian at the Atlanta Public Library.
- Sharon Charette, the Bulletin's Production Editor, began her new position as Acquisitions Librarian at Wheaton College Library (Norton, Mass.) in February. A 1981 graduate of URI's Graduate Library School, Sharon has been employed at the College since 1978 as Serials Assistant, and later as Cataloging Assistant.

BULLETIN BOARD

- Two libraries are currently in the midst of fund-raising activities. North Scituate Public Library has launched a drive for \$150,000 to assist in construction of an addition to their 50 year old building. The Cranston Public Library's drive is to provide funds for purchasing books for the new central library. The goal is 25,000 books to complete the opening day collection.
- The Rhode Island Film Library Cooperative is organizing a project to demonstrate the lending of videocassettes through the local library. Packets of 13 cassettes ($\frac{1}{2}$ " VHS) will be sent to 25 participating libraries in the state over the course of one year. The libraries will keep a packet for two months before exchanging it for another.
- The Tyler Free Library in Foster has received a \$15,000 grant from an anonymous foundation to make interior improvements. The grant will be used to help meet the fire code, to construct a circulation desk, and to improve the work space.
- In response to recent criticism from the Olneyville Chapter of the Coalition for Consumer Justice, Providence Public Library Director Annalee Bundy said that the branch will remain closed unless the city provides money to reopen it. Olneyville, the third most heavily used branch in the city, and Wanskuck branches were closed in 1981 because of financial difficulties. Service to Olneyville is now being provided by a volunteer deposit collection center at Nickerson House and with book mobiles.
- LIBRARY CELEBRATION
Put your Pretty foot forward and come to the Celebration of Rhode Island Libraries. Bring your computers, book talks, slide/tapes, film, puppet shows and your very best public personality to the Warwick Mall on Monday and Tuesday, June 7 and 8, 1982. There, in the early evening hours, Rhode Island libraries will have a chance to "show their stuff". Sponsored by the Library Promotion Group of the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA), the Celebration is chaired by Herman Rose of the Department of Community Affairs. COLA wants to involve all the state library associations--private, special, school, public, etc. The challenge--to create booths, exhibits, and "happenings" which will provide maximum exposure of existing library services in a people-oriented spirit. The idea is to produce your own interactive event with the public you serve or wish to serve. So, put some new frills on those Library Week programs and begin to "think PR". Herman will be enlisting the support and cooperation of your association and is looking for creative ideas. Have any? Call him at 277-2877.



CALENDAR

- March 16 Topic: NINTH ANNUAL RIEMA CONFERENCE
Place: Community College of R.I., Lincoln Campus, Rte.246
Time: 7:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Contact: Lillian Desrosiers, Bristol Community College,
LRC, 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720
(617-678-2811, X108 & X107)
- March 20 Topic: Archival Theft, the Problem and Its' Prevention
Place: Connecticut Historical, 1 Elizabeth Street,
Hartford, CT 06105
Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Contact: Elizabeth Abbe, Connecticut Historical Society
- March 23 RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Place: Providence Public Library
Time: 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- March 25 Topic: Planning for Disaster: Proposal for a
State-wide Disaster Plan
Place: Warwick Public Library
Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- April 1 Topic: Incentive Grants
Place: Pontiac Free Library, 101 Greenwich Ave., Warwick
Time: 10:00 a.m., Come for coffee at 9:30 a.m.
- April 6 Sponsor: RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY FILM COOPERATIVE
Topic: Semi-annual Membership Meeting
Place: Warwick Public Library, Lakewood Room
Time: 9:30 a.m.
- April 14 Sponsor: R.I. Library Film Cooperative, Southern Region
Topic: Children's Films
Place: Kingston Free Library
Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Discussion and brown bag lunch 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

DISASTER PLANNING WORKSHOP
FOR LIBRARIANS AND CUSTODIANS OF RECORDS:
PROPOSAL FOR A STATEWIDE PLAN

A workshop on Disaster Planning will be held at the Warwick Public Library, Warwick, Rhode Island, on Thursday, March 25, 1982, from 1:00 - 3:30 P.M.

The workshop will be conducted by Mildred O'Connell, Field Service Director at the Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, Massachusetts, and will explore the subject of disaster planning on both an institutional and a statewide level. It is co-sponsored by the Department of State Library Services, the Rhode Island Archivists, the Special Libraries Association (R.I. Chapter), the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic & Research Libraries, the Rhode Island Library Association and the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

Available without cost, the workshop is open to all librarians, curators, and other custodians of records in the State of Rhode Island.

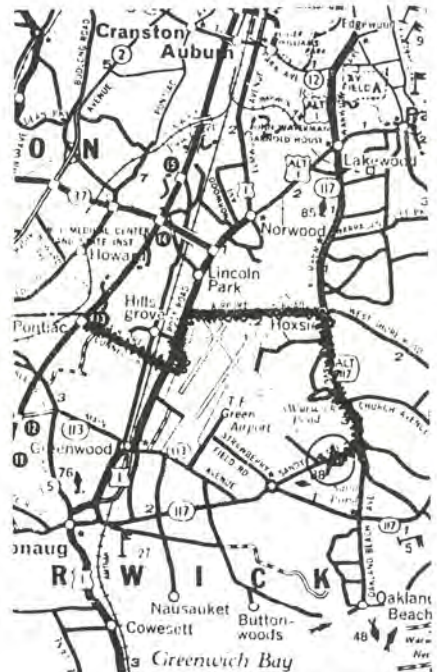
For further information, please call Sam Streit at 401-863-2146, Monday - Friday, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Directions to the Warwick Public Library:

I 95 to Airport Exit #13
Airport Connector to Post Road
Post Road north to Airport Road
Airport Road east to Warwick Avenue
Turn right and go south on Warwick Avenue
(approximately 7 lights to Sandy Lane)
Turn right and go west on Sandy Lane
The Library is at 600 Sandy Lane, two
blocks down on the left side.

The meeting will be in the Lakewood Room
on the second floor.

Telephone: 401-739-5440





RILA SRRT HOTLINE

The RILA Bulletin editors ask local library employers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut to send us news of upcoming openings at any level in their libraries. There is no advertising fee. Write or call Elizabeth Rogers, Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02908. Telephone (401) 521-7722.

Job-seekers desiring a copy of the most recent monthly Jobline may obtain one by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the SRRT coordinator: Mary Frances Cooper, Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02908. In order for a job notice to appear in the Bulletin, it must be received before the 15th. of the preceding month.

Employers and job-seekers also have access to the New England Library Jobline, a free service of the New England Library Board. Employers call (207) 622-4733 to place a position announcement on the Jobline. Those interested in learning about open positions in New England, call (207) 623-2286. The Jobline is updated with a new tape each Friday.

-Rhode Island-

SUBSTITUTE LIBRARY PERSONNEL: Woonsocket Public School System. Must be certified as Teachers of Library Science by R.I. Dept. of Education. Sal.: \$30.00 per day. Applications available from Louis Leveillee, Coordinator of Media Services, 350 Newland Ave., Woonsocket, RI 02895, or phone (401) 766-0770.

-Massachusetts-

LIBRARIAN: Seeking Elementary School Librarian, beginning Sept. 1982, 3/4 time. Send resume to: Cambridge Friends School, 5 Cadbury Road, Cambridge, MA 02140. No phone calls please (Boston Globe 2/14)

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN: Qual.: Minimum two years Children's library experience. Must be creative, energetic, and able to work well with staff and community groups. Duties: develops library resources, programs, and activities to attract and serve children's community needs and interests. Works independently within broad scope of established departmental policies. Supervises staff of four, emphasis on cooperative programs with schools and local groups. Evening, and Saturday work required. Sal.: \$14,529-\$18,574 in four steps. Available immediately, send resume and references to: Thomas Viti, Director, Westwood Public Library 668 High Street, Westwood MA 02090.

AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS BRANCH LIBRARIAN: Mass. Institute of Technology Libraries: Under direction of Head, Engineering Libs., administers the Aeronautics and Astronautics Library, including reference and circulation services, collection development, and technical processing, with the assistance of one full-time employee plus student assistants. Participates in reference service and/or collection development activities in the Barker Engineering Library. Req.: Accredited MLS; 3 years professional experience in a science or engineering library, including reference and/or collection development; supervisory experience; and experience with technical reports and microforms. Under-graduate degree in science or engineering is desired. Sal.: \$18,000 minimum (FY 1982) Submit resume and names of 3 current references by April 15 to: Search Committee, The Libraries, Room 14S-216, M.I.T., Cambridge MA 02139 (LJH 2/15)

MARKETING RESEARCH LIBRARIAN: For newspaper Marketing Department of ATEX, the leader in computer systems for the publishing industry. The unstructured, yet supportive environment offers personal and professional freedom. Looking for independent, innovative people who will enjoy the excitement of a product-oriented environment. Needed to implement a new library function in the Marketing Research area. Also obtain and catalogue necessary publications, text and reference materials using the ATEX library system, and assist in preparing summary information on the marketplace. MLS and two years related industry experience required. Send resume to: Kim Sheviak, ATEX, 15 Wiggins Avenue, Bedford MA 01730 (Bost. Globe 2/14)

-Connecticut-

ASSISTANT LAW LIBRARIAN: Technical Services, Univ. of Connecticut Law School: Responsible for administration and supervision of operations and personnel in cataloging and acquisitions. Req.: ALA-accredited MLS plus 3 years technical services experience. Reply by April 1, 1982 to: Ms. Judith Lahey, Univ. of Connecticut School of Law Library, Greater Hartford Campus, West Hartford, CT 06117 (Hartford Courant 2/14)

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN: For new branch in redeveloped area. Attractive facility in school complex. MLS req. Spanish desirable. Sal.: \$14,300-\$21,307. Immediate opening. Apply to: Wilbur B. Crimmin, Librarian, Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103 (Boston Globe 1/24)

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY SCIENCE AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY: Full-time, 12-month position. Reports to Vice President for Academic Affairs and serves as chief academic and administrative officer for the fully accredited program in library science and instructional technology at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Candidates should hold a MLS and an earned doctorate in library science or a related field and have experience in teaching and administration in baccalaureate and/or higher degree programs in library science. The appointment is anticipated by July 1, 1982. The salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. Subject to the availability of funds and position. Deadline is April 1, 1982. Candidates should submit a complete resume and a list of references to: Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Southern Connecticut State College, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515 (Boston Globe 2/14)

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT YOU?

RILA's Public Relations efforts this year will focus on creating a dynamic image of LIBRARIANS and Libraries. We want to show the world at large that Library's greatest assets are LIBRARIANS--the people who make it possible for library users to elicit the pleasure and information that they want to get from Library resources, programs and collections. To accomplish this end, we are planning a series of TV and Radio Spots to illustrate the diversity of Librarians and Library resources in R.I. We need volunteers from the library community to feature in these Public Service Announcements. We are also interested in setting up a R.I. Library Association Speakers Bureau of librarians available and willing to make topical presentations to local community groups. If you are are willing to help in either of these projects please read and fill out the questionnaire below and send to: Lauri Burke, Barrington Public Library, 283 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806.

(The TV Spots we plan to produce will feature Librarians showing work and non-work related talents and skills to illustrate what is special about Librarians--Examples of work-related skills include: Reference skills, Programming skills, skill with computers, AV equipment, Facility in a Foreign Language. Examples of non-work related skills and interests include: Running, cycling, weightlifting, pet training, craft skills, artistic ability, mechanical skills).

Will you participate in a TV or Radio Spot for RILA?

Yes _____ No _____

What talents, skills, or interests would you like to show?

Would you be willing to speak to Community Groups?

Yes _____ No _____

Your possible topic, or topics would be:

Your name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____

For further information about our PR Campaign call: Lauri Burke, RILA PR Committee Chairperson, at 245-3106. Thank you for your time and interest!

WHAT'S YOUR SPECIALTY?



BULLETIN ADVERTISING MANAGER NEEDED

Would you like to work a few hours a month as the Bulletin advertising manager? Briefly, the job involves soliciting, receiving and inspecting advertising copy for the Bulletin, sending bills to advertisers, and submitting subsequent checks to the RILA Treasurer. If you're interested, please contact the Bulletin editor-in-chief as soon as possible.

The College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland, is planning the sixteenth annual Library Administrators Development Program, to be held May 2-4, 1982. Those interested in further information are invited to address inquiries to Mrs. Effie T. Knight, Administrative Assistant, Library Administrators Development Program, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742.

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President

Anne Parent, Cranston Public Lib.
1825 Broad Street
Cranston, RI 02905
Home: 235 Kingswood Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Bus. Phone: 781-2452/50
Home Phone: 884-8435

Vice-President/President Elect

Howard Boksenbaum, Island Inter-
related Library System
Barrington Public Library
County Road, Barrington 02806
Bus. Phone: 245-3875

Member-at-Large

Samuel Streit, John Hay Library
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912
Bus. Phone: 863-2148

ALA Councilor

Jody Bush, Providence Pub. Lib.
150 Empire Street
Providence, RI 02903
Bus. Phone: 521-7722, X207
Home Phone: 331-3396

Past President

Beth Perry, R.I. College Lib.
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Bus. Phone: 456-8053/2

Secretary

Frances Farrell, Prov. Public Lib.
150 Empire Street
Providence, RI 02903
Bus. Phone: 521-7722, X228

Treasurer

Catherine Mello Alves, E. Prov.
Public Lib., Fuller Branch
260 Dover Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914
Bus. Phone: 434-0158

NELA Councilor

Connie Lachowicz, S. Kingstown Pub.
Library
766 Kingstown Road
Peace Dale, RI 02883
Bus. Phone: 789-1555

Bulletin Editor/Member ex-officio

Deborah Barchi, Meeting St. School
667 Waterman Street
East Providence, RI 02914
Bus. Phone: 438-9500

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739-1919

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